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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

Study on background data of student body: Sex, age, race, birthplace, marital status, curriculum preference, religion, politics, size of home community, parental backgrounds, family size, economic status, commuting, finances, student employment, and use of leisure. Results showed great stability to the population from which the college draws.

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SOCIAL BACKGROUND DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 1959

NEWARK STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

Prepared by Dr. John C. Hutchinson Jr. Dec 20 1955

On December 20, 1954, a report was submitted treating the results of an investigation of the classes of 1954-58. The report which follows parallels the earlier report, and should be studied with it.

Sex and Age

Perhaps the outstanding social fact of the Class of 1959 is the relatively large percentage of men it contains. Whereas in the Class of 1958 there were 132 women to nine men, in the present freshman class there are 144 women to thirty-one men. That large a male group, without the industrial arts program that traditionally attracted the men to the college, is of real significance.

The Class of 1958 contained only five "over-age" students. In the Class of 1959, sixteen - about ten per cent - were born before 1933. This is a fact of note, with implications in both instruction and personnel.

Race

White students, 160; Negro students, 10; not stated, 4.

Birthplace

Essex County, 97; other New Jersey, 44; New York, 18; other U. S., 131; foreign-born, 2.

Marital Status

There are 165 single students in the Class of 1959, seven married students, one divorced, and one widowed. In the families of the married freshmen, there is a total of twelve children. The Class of 1959 contains, in short, a larger percentage of "older" and of married students.

Curriculum Preference

General elementary, 88; K. P., 40; 5-9, 32; special ed., 10.

The number of freshmen indicating an interest in the 5-9 specialty ought to give us all a sense of urgency with respect to constructing a curriculum in the area.

Religion

Roman Catholic, 84; Protestant, 46; Hebrew, 39; not stated, 5.

Political Preference

Democrat, 67; Republican, 37; independent, 6; other 2; not stated, 59.

Size of Home Community

Over a half of the members of the class lived and live in big cities. Less than thirty per cent come from towns of under 10,000 people.

The Fathers of the Members of the Class of 1959

Birthplace: roughly one-half New Jersey, the remainder about evenly divided between other parts of the United States and foreign countries. Forty-four of 173 fathers are reported as foreign-born.

Schooling: elementary, 42; junior high, 34; senior high, 56; beyond high school, 20; college graduates, 21.

Occupation: business, 60; professional, 30; skilled, 58; unskilled, 10; retired, 6; deceased, 9.

Forty-three of the fathers are reported to be self-employed; 130 are employees.

The Mothers of Members of the Class of 1959

Birthplace; New Jersey, 69; other U. S., 65; foreign-born, 39.

Schooling: elementary, 42; junior high, 31;, senior high, 64; beyond high school,18; college graduates, 19.

Today, the mothers of these freshmen are predominantly home-makers: 110 of 174. The employed mothere are in 43 cases business or professional women, with only 13 in industrial work.

Family Size

Twenty-six of the group come from families where they are only children; 64 have one sibling; 46 have two siblings; sixteen are from families of four children; nine from five; and twelve of the students come from families with more than five children.

Economic Status

Automobiles are owned by 155 of the 173 families represented; 168 families have telephones, and as many have television sets. One hundred and six of the homes are owned; 66 are rented.

Half of the members of the Class of 1959 either do not know or do not care to report their family income. Of those reporting, well over half report incomes of under five thousand dollars a year.

Commuting to College

Sixty-three students in the class live within five miles of the college; 56 live within five to nine miles; 19 live within the 10-14-mile radius; and 32 live beyond the fifteen-mile zone.

A public bus brings 79 of the students to college; autos carry 54; trains, 33. Eight students in the group walk to the college.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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Finances

Parents are said to finance the college education of 119 members of the Class of 1959; 32 claim to be self-supporting; 16 others depend upon scholarships. Scholarship aid has these sources: state, 18; work scholarships, 19; other scholarships, 18.

Student Employment

Twenty-four members of the class work under 10 hours a week; 39 work between ten and nineteen hours; just six work between twenty and twenty-nine hours. The employed students are in sales (31),clerical (27), child care (7), and industrial (4) lines.

Summer work and employment before college matriculation are reported in about the same distribution, with a heavier representation in clerical and child-care pursuits.

Leisure-time Activities

All but thirty-six students reporting had leadership experiences.

The readers and the sport-lovers are about evenly divided, with fifty in each grouping. Thirty-five students mention music as their interest, with smaller minorities attracted to art, the movies and t-v.

Comment

There is an amazing stability to the population the college draws from. All of the writer's studies over the past fifteen years suggest that our student body comes out of a rather well defined socio-economic group. The Class of 1959 is a "normal" Newark State group.

John C. Hutchinson
December 30, 1955